



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

The stored food in the seeds of *Phacelia tanacetifolia* is largely fat. HEINRICHER argues that germination is hindered by light because acid formation is greatly fostered by darkness or by the more refrangible rays, which create more favorable conditions for the formation and action of lipase. There seems to be little evidence offered for this conclusion. In fact it looks as if our knowledge of the germination processes must be greatly extended before we can announce any one process that must be stimulated to induce germination. However this may be, it is certain that such conclusions, if tenable, must have far more experimental evidence than HEINRICHER has offered.—WILLIAM CROCKER.

**Suspended life.**—BECQUEREL reports to the Paris Academy of Science<sup>27</sup> further experiments on the question of the life of seeds, whether it is slow or stopped. He perforated the seed coats of seeds of lucerne, white mustard, and wheat, dried them in a vacuum with BaOH at 40° C. for six months, sealed them in a glass tube exhausted to 0.002<sup>mm</sup> mercury, and kept them for a year; they were then submitted to a temperature of liquid air (−190°) for three weeks, and without warming up to the temperature of liquid hydrogen (−250°) for 72 hours. On being kept upon moist cotton at 28° all except one grain of wheat out of five germinated in a perfectly normal fashion. BECQUEREL finds it impossible to conceive of “life” under the conditions named, and holds that life can be interrupted completely with no prejudice to its resumption.—C. R. B.

**Individual variation.**—An elaborate paper upon the individual differences in the development of growing plants, with special reference to the influence of external conditions, has been published by KORIBA.<sup>28</sup> It is too detailed for any intelligible summary, but its data should be considered by those who are conducting experiments of any kind in which a limited number of plants furnish the basis for conclusions. It emphasizes strongly the necessity of taking account of these individual peculiarities.—C. R. B.

**Respiration and temperature.**—KUYPER reports<sup>29</sup> that BLACKMAN's theory of limiting factors holds good for respiration, which as a chemical process agrees with the VAN'T HOFF-ARRHENIUS law between 0° and 20–25°, but shows a falling-off in an almost logarithmic curve above 40°. The “optimum” is no fixed point, for the duration of respiration at any given temperature will displace it. The course of respiration, KUYPER finds, is also dependent on the nature of the reserve food.—C. R. B.

---

<sup>27</sup> BECQUEREL, PAUL, Sur la suspension momentanée de la vie chez certaines graines. Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci. Paris **148**:1052–1054. 1909.

<sup>28</sup> KORIBA, K., Ueber die individuelle Verschiedenheit in der Entwicklung einiger fortwachsenden Pflanzen mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die Aussenbedingungen. Jour. Coll. Sci. Imp. Univ. Tokyo **27**: art. 3. (pp. 86.) pls. 5. 1909.

<sup>29</sup> KUYPER, J., The influence of temperature on the respiration of the higher plants. Konink. Akad. Wetens. Amsterdam **12**:219–227. 1909.